

# INFORMATION

For Gaven Plummer Cashier to the Indian and African Company.

Against

John Lord Belhaven.

John Carter Brown  
Library

**T**He said Gaven Plummer having caused Charge the Lord Belhaven to make payment to him as Cashier to the said Company of the sum of 150 lib. sterling, as the remainder of the first Moiety due by the said Lord Belhaven to the said Africa Company, conform to his Bond. And thereupon his Lordship having proffered a Bill of Suspension against this Charge, the Reasons thereof were ordained to be discussed on the Bill.

It was alledged for the Defender, That he being very Instrumental for the advancing the Affairs of the Company, and was a good Example to others, by having amongst the first subscribed for 3000 lib. sterling. And that being Commissionat by the Patentees to negotiate their common affairs at London, he undertook the same, and had been very successfull therein, if a stop had not been put thereto by the House of Commons who threatned, and Menac'd the Suspende, to bring him to a Tryal before them, as Acting contrary to the Laws of England, by which he was necessitat to returne abruptly to Scotland. And that for all the Pains and Expence he had been at, in serving of the said Company, they had only allowed him 100 lib. sterling. Which was neither suitable to his Pains, Expence, or his Quality, And that the whole first part of that part of his Subscription, viz. 250 lib. sterling, was but to osmalla Gratification and Recompence for the Service he had done to them, as said is.

To which it was Answered, 1. That 'tis true. The Lord Belhaven was amongst the first of the Subscribers, and did Sign for 3000 lib. sterling. And gave Bond for the same accordingly, but 'tis as true, he was the first who shewen an uneasiness under that engagement, and brought a Dis-reputation on the Company's Stock, by offering to transferr his Subscription to others, before the Books were half compleated, and did actually transferr 1000 lib. sterling thereof, to Robert Craig of Rickerton, another 1000 lib. sterling thereof to some in the Direction, who ventured it seems clandestinely, to take the same of the Suspenders hands, in trust for the Company, rather than have it propall'd abroad, that one of his Lordships Character, had been so early at his Repentance, lest the same might be a great dis-couragement to others, and reserved only the third 1000 lib. sterling, to himself, for which Sum, The Suspende would, it seems, have an interest in the Company's Stock without any part thereof to the Charger.

2. It was denyed that the Suspende had any Commission from the Patentees to Negotiat the Affairs of the Company at London, tho it is not doubted he was desired by some of their number to go and give his assistance in promoting so National a design; and it is acknowledged that he did it with all the sincerity and zeal imaginable, for which after the Company was regularly constituted, the Court of Directors and Council-general, in requiting of the Suspenders good intentions, tho' otherways ineffectual, did allow him 100 lib. sterl. which is more than 20 sh. sterl. per diem, during his absence, besides 10 lib. sterl. for Postage, up & down. Whereas it might have been contended in Law, that the Company was not oblig'd to give him any thing upon thir grounds: 1. He had no Commission from the Patentees, or major part of them, but what he did was out of a frank and free offer of his own, and consequently can pretend to no more than a voluntar Gratification, whatever his Expences be, more or less. 2. This being before the Constitution of the Company, it could be no tye nor Bond upon them: But notwithstanding thereof, they were so generous, as to allow him 100 lib. sterl. for his necessary Charges, as aforesaid, which certainly might very well defray the same, considering his stay there was so short, & for the most part in company with Merchants, who bore an equal proportion to a Penny of all expences: And if the Lord Belhaven had not thought that Sum suitable to his quality and service done to the Company, it had been very suitable to his Lordships quality to have rejected the same altogether, and given his service and pains generously to the Company, without expectation of any Gratification or Re-imbursment of his Expences, especially since his endeavours, how well soever intended, were of no advantage to the Company.

To which it was Replied, That it is known to all persons who ever were at London, that one of the Lo. Belhavens quality could not go to Lond. & stay there but 8. days, without being at far greater expences than 100 lib. ster. altho he had no business to do, save only to make one single



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single appearance at Court, but that in this case he had extraordinary occasion of Charges, by being obliged to go several times to Court, wait upon, and speak to the King, to get his Countenance and Protection to the said Company; to be at many and frequent Meetings with *English* Merchants, who were to engage therein: and that the Expence of ten weeks at first at *London*, would be as great as if he had stayed six Months; and no man can think that the Lord *Belhaven* could have stayed at *London* six Months for a 100 *lib. Sterl.*

To which it was Duptied, that the Answer to the reasons stand relevant, notwithstanding of the Reply. And 1. If the Lord *Belhaven* be as much concerned in the Interest of the Company as he pretends, he should consider the vast and great Charges which the Company is at without expectation of Profit for a considerable time, and how cheerfully several Persons of the greatest Quality in the Nation are, all this time, at great Pains, and give incessant attendance (which cannot be without considerable Expence) in Promoting and Advancing the Interest and Affairs of the Company; yet never pretended any Re-imbursement of their Expence or Gratification for their Pains. 2. The Suspenders cannot (upon calm reasoning) urge, but that the Company had all due regard to his Quality, and dealt very tenderly with him in this matter all along, for when upon the eight day of *December* last, at a Council-General of the said Company, (where the Marquess of *Tweeddale*, Earls of *Lawderdale*, *Leven*, *Annandale* and *Pannure*, Lord Justice Clerk, *Craigh*, and several other Persons of Honour were present, his Lordship pressed the consideration of that matter with all the Arguments he could think of, they modified his Allowance to the Sum above-mentioned, so much now complained of: after which the Suspenders gave in a Representation in writing to the Directors, craving a larger Allowance, which Representation was communicated to a subsequent Council-General, whereafter full and deliberate Reasoning upon the subject matter thereof, they Adhered to their former Determination: nor can it well be supposed, but that all these Honourable Persons would have all due regard, both to my Lord *Belhaven's* Quality, his necessary Charges, Conditions and Circumstances of the Company; nor would they doubtless do any thing which might be a Reflection upon any Person of Quality; much less upon the Lord *Belhaven*, one of their own number and Society.

3. The said Court of Directors and Counsel General did follow the same method, with the Lord *Belhaven* as they did with Lieutenants-colonel *Erskin* and Laird of *Glenaeles*, who were duely and solemnly commissioned by the Company to negotiate their affairs in *London*, *Holland* and *Hamburg*, and had only an allowance of 20 *Shilling Sterling per diem* each, without any regard to Postage or transportation, tho the suspenders had allowance for that also over and above, and it's hoped the Suspenders will acknowledge that they were persons of good quality, and that their expence in representing the Company constituted, may reasonably be supposed, to equal at least the Expences of those who acted for promoting the company before it was constituted; especially they acting by Commission, as said is, but the Suspenders only of his own accord without one, so in Law he can pretend to no more than what the Company thinks fit to allow him, yet the Company without any constraint has allowed him what they thought suitable to his Expences as not being desirous that any person should be loser for services done to them and over and above restricted their Charge against him to 150 *lib. Sterl.* whereas they very well might have charged him for 250 *lib. Sterl.* more being the first 100 *lib. Sterl.* part of the other 1000 *lib. Sterl.* Subscription which his Lordship turned back upon the Company in manner above mentioned, and for which his Bond stands still unredeemed to this hour.

And whereas it was alledged for the Suspenders that Lieutenants-Colonel *Erskin* and *Glenaeles* were employed in matters, by which they could make other considerable advantages over and above their modified allowance above-mentioned; such as the bargaining for and buying of Ships, &c. And so could be no just precedent for modifying the Suspenders Expences by: It is a gross and absolute calumny, for that was no part of their Commission, *Alexander Stevenson*, and *James Gibson* being (long before they went abroad) solely employed therein; And it may very well be supposed that none would make any such groundless and unwarrantable suggestion at the Barr against Persons of their Honour, & known integrity to the Company but who all probability would be ready themselves to make all advantages whatsoever beyond their allowance, if they were employed in any such trust.

4. It cannot well be understood how the Expences of eight or ten weeks at *London* should be as much as if he had staid there six months. And altho it be acknowledged that the Lord *Belhaven* appeared some few times at Court upon that occasion yet we cannot suppose the suspenders was so prodigal of his Money as to be at considerable extraordinary Expences for things which would not be of use to him afterwards, especially being all that time obliged to be in mourning for his Fathers Death; And as to any Expences which the Suspenders might be at in meeting at several times with *English* Merchants, Mr. *Robert Blackwood* and *James Balfour* (his Colleagues upon this occasion) were still present with him, and do aver that each of them did bear a proportionable share of all Expence with his Lordship, & yet the Company out of respect to his Lordships quality did allow them but half the allowance *per diem* which they allow'd to his Lordship.

In Respect whereof, &c.